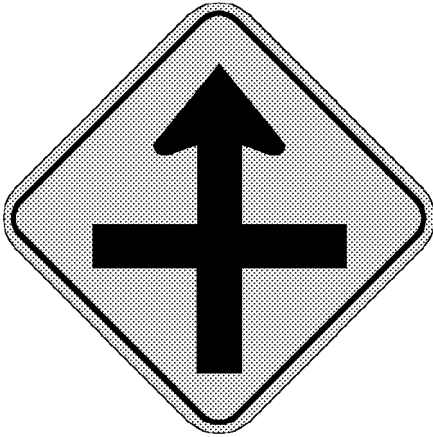


# The Passing Lane

A JOURNAL OF TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
from the Washington State County Road Administration Board

Volume 3 Issue 2  
July 1996



## Moving Towards Mobility

What if...

- ...you had a new inventory/management system that was happy regardless of how much free conventional memory you had?
- ...there were a reporting tool that allowed you to select fonts and create graphs?
- ...you could forget field names?
- ...you had a tool that allowed you to select road features by simply "driving down the road"?
- ...you could customize the inventories to meet your needs?
- ...you could easily collect data with multiple PCs?
- ...it ran in Windows?

### Inside this issue:

- On the move with Mobility!
- Help plan Design Conference 96!
- WSAC Convention notes
- Tips, trips and tricks with AREV 3.12

*The Passing Lane* is a publication of the Washington State County Road Administration Board. Unauthorized distribution is strictly forbidden unless accompanied by boisterous praise for the below mentioned staff.

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You know, it sounds like that'll cost 'ya at least \$395.

Enter **MOBILITY**.

**MOBILITY** is the new CRIS for Windows™. For those who care (and we know you do), Mobility will be built around Microsoft Access™ with Visual Basic™. The goal of Mobility is to build a new tool that supercedes CRIS, is easier to use, and provides a platform for future growth and integration. Mobility will be an easy to use Windows product that uses data in a standard format that is easy for other systems (like GIS) to use.

Sound nice, doesn't it?

Well, true, we've been talking about a "CRIS for Windows" for quite a while now. The design for Mobility has been progressing rapidly in recent months. A prototype of the user interface is being constructed right now and the basic data design and data conversion routines are being built. This project is well underway and we are excited about where we will be in the coming months.

We hope to start collecting user (that's you) feedback on our design by early fall. And, to get your feedback, we are going to have to show you something. So, brush up on your mouse-clicking and get ready to move with **Mobility**.

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## Barrier Protection Module

Recently, Steve Blair from Skagit county and Joanna Pottroff from Lewis county got together here at the CRAB and created a new local module for CRIS which provides a rating system for roadside hazards based upon a system developed at Skagit county. One of the calculations this module will provide is the number of accidents at, within 0.1 and within 0.2 miles of a hazard over the last 5 years. Interested? Call Dr. John at CRAB on the CRIS help line.

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## CRIS Upgrade Eastern Tour

Dr. John has been out roaming the roads of Eastern Washington for the last two weeks. His trip took him down to Vancouver, across to Asotin, up to Republic and back across to Mt. Vernon before returned to CRAB. That leaves only 5 counties left to upgrade to AREV 3.12. Many friends were met and made on the way through Klickitat, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin, Adams, Lincoln, Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan and Skagit counties. Expect a small upgrade to CRIS v3.12 in the fall/winter season (CRISMAS).

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## Memory and AREV 3.12

Many CRIS users have run into memory problems running CRIS in Arev under Windows 3.XX. A lot of you are puzzled and ask: How can I be out of memory when this computer has 32 megabytes of RAM?!? The answer has to do with MS-DOS limitations and configuration. CRAB techies recommend changing to Windows95 to solve the memory mess, but this is not always possible. The long and the short of it is that CRIS needs all the conventional memory possible. Dr. John recommends 600K minimum. CRIS also needs EMS memory, XMS won't do. The best thing to do is tell your Information Services experts (computer persons) those last two sentences and let them set up your machine. OK, so you don't have a computer expert available, how do you find out how much conventional and EMS memory you have? Well, find one of those DOS prompts and type the command MEM. It will

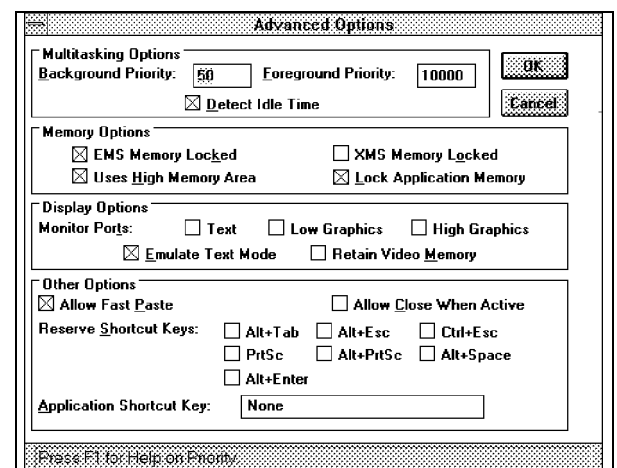
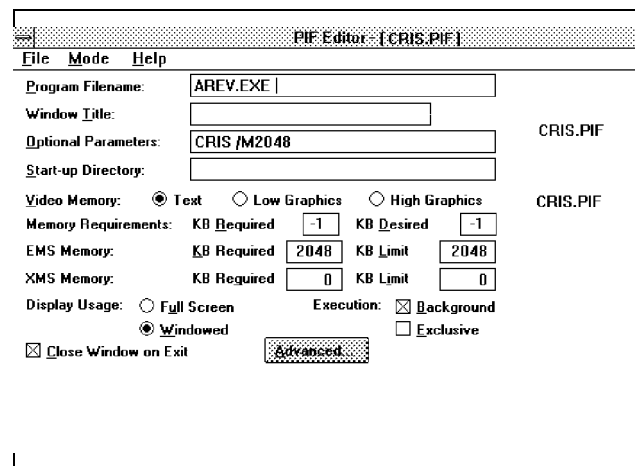
display a bunch of statistics. Look under the Free column and if conventional isn't real close to 600K, expect memory trouble using CRIS. If your memory is suffering the following is a list of things to check for in your config.sys file located in the root of your hard drive, usually C:\. You can see what is in this file by typing the command TYPE C:\CONFIG.SYS

### *THINGS YOU SHOULD SEE IN YOUR CONFIG.SYS FILE:*

```
DEVICE=C:\DOS\HIMEM.SYS
DEVICE=C:\DOS\EMM386.EXE RAM
BUFFERS=10,0
FILES=100
DOS=UMB
FCBS=4,0
DOS=HIGH
STACKS=9,256
```

There are many ways to run CRIS under Windows 3.XX. We at CRAB suggest using a PIF file.

### CRAB's RECOMMENDED CRIS PIF FILE SETTINGS:

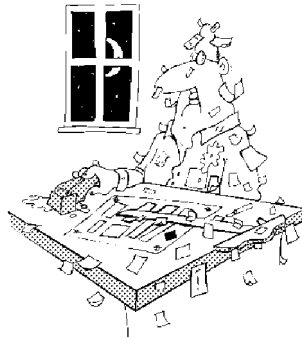


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## 🐞 Fall Conference planning NOW!

Many have witnessed the awesome presentations assembled by fellow county staffers and know only too well, that CRAB's Road Design Conference (variously named in past incarnations) should be missed only by those uninterested in innovative solutions and who aren't keen about the latest technological solutions. Finally, this year those folks will also feel welcome because our hosts will be the folks at the Summit Inn at Snoqualmie Pass who assure me that no one who attends one of their events ever leaves with regret. This year we'll be featuring a little bit of everything.

The agenda still needs to be fleshed out and the full color glossy registration forms haven't come back yet from CRAB marketing, but we'll be beating the bushes to find presenters to fill slots about watershed modeling, CAD configuration, mapping data collection, contract law and liability, metrication, pavement design and more, more, more.



Perhaps you know somebody who knows something about these or other interesting or practical things that happen during the course of business each day. Maybe you greet that person warmly in the mirror each morning as "Hey Wonderful" or some such kind nickname and would like to suggest that this would be THEIR brilliant opportunity to help make this year's conference very relevant and information-packed. In addition to getting admission to all conference events



**ABSOLUTELY FREE**, you will also gain access to the special and exclusive "Speaker's Suite" (the details of which are still under discussion and may not actually survive a rigorous ethics inquiry now underway) where special gifts and prizes will be afforded those who gave so generously of their time toward the eventual success of this most extraordinary event.

If so, do contact the organizer without delay at the recently set up conference hotline (360) 664-2325.

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## 🐞 A Team Effort

At the Annual Summer WSAC Convention this year, **Washington State University**, in cooperation with CRAB, provided county commissioners and staff an opportunity to learn about the Internet. The thirty minute training sessions were repeated over two days giving many the opportunity to attend.

There were over 40 commissioners and other county staff representing 24 different counties attending the sessions. The WSU faculty and staff providing the training were Ron Faas, Tony Wright, Kim Michael and Rob McDaniel. Many thanks for your efforts.

At each session, two WSU faculty and staff worked with participant in a hands-on practice, learning about how to send and receive email, accessing and using the World Wide Web (and you thought commissioners didn't know anything about surfing) as well as how to search for information relevant to county government.

We valued this cooperation with WSU and look forward to more opportunities to work together.

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## ✈ What's in a Name?

A lot, if you are trying to attach an xref in Autocad. Which is precisely what Eagle Point does when it creates it's Roadcalc plan/profile sheets (Roadcalc/Plots/Create P+P). Autocad allows layer names up to 31 characters long. You touch typists may be quite comfortable with such verbosity, but Autocad's xref command may not.

Xref automatically attaches the 8 character DOS filename to the resulting layer name in the target drawing. If this concatenation exceeds 31 characters, autocad returns an error explaining that it cannot ATTACH the ref without explaining why. Next time you get a plan/profile sheet where the plan or profile seems a bit empty and you remember *now* that there seemed to be a few unpleasant messages transmitted during the process, take a peek at those layer names.

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## 🐞 Information Technology Training

Coming SOON!! Keep on the look out in the very next **Passing Lane** for the upcoming Fall schedules.

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## Where did I put that email address...

To see the latest online resource brought to you by your CRAB WebMasters, point your browser to <http://www.crab.wa.gov/EmailDirectory/>. It is easy to find any email address stored in our directory. If you don't find your address, simply add it yourself. With your help, this will become the definitive source for Washington State county email addresses on the net.

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## Update errors? Import errors?

Having trouble with backups, restores, accident loading, PMS importing? All of these functions rely on features outside of AREV, a "suspend" happens in the background and will seriously hose things up if it doesn't happen right. If you are having some trouble, type SUSPEND at a TCL, if you get a message saying an old ROLLOUT.SUS file exists and do you want to delete it, say "Yes." This will most likely fix those errors with importing and restores.

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## Where are those accident "Bad Spots?"

Want to know which areas of Roadlog Segments have the most number of Accidents? Try the following RLIST statements:

```
LIST ROADLOG BY-DSND ACCI-  
DENT_COUNT WITH ACCIDENT_COUNT > 0  
ACCIDENT_COUNT ACCIDENT_HMVM @CRT
```

```
LIST REF_POINTS BY-DSND ACCI-  
DENT_COUNT WITH ACCIDENT_COUNT > 0  
ACCIDENT_COUNT ACCIDENT_MEV  
ACC_ROAD_NUMBER ACC_MILEPOST  
ACC_DATE @CRT
```

Remember you can change the accident parameters to set the starting year, time span and intersection range in the Systems|Definitions screen.

You might note that using the reference point table there are fields with ACC\_ in front, these fields are available from ALL CRIS database tables in AREV 3.12. The names of the fields are the same as in the accident table except you add the ACC\_ to the beginning of them

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